

Preliminary Decision Memo

2020 Boy Scouts of America Camp Makualla Improvement Projects

USDA Forest Service
Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest
Klamath County, Oregon

Background

Camp Makualla has been in operation on Crescent Lake since 1938 under Special Use Permit to the Boy Scouts of America- Crater Lake Council as authorized by the United States Forest Service. Over the years there have been many changes/improvements to the camp including: road access, additional buildings and camping sites, construction of rifle and shotgun ranges, and a shower facility. During World War II there was no boy scout camping but the military utilized the camp. In the late 1940's the lake level was raised forcing the relocation of some facilities and campsites. In the 1980's the lodge burned down and a new one built. In 1993 the Modoc Area Council merged with the Crater Lake Council, which increased the number of youth who utilized the camp. Today the camp services approximately 1,250 youth in the summer and other organizations during the winter months.

Camp Makualla and Crescent Lake are found on the eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains, in the northwest corner of Klamath County, Oregon. It is located within the Crescent Ranger District, as well as the Deschutes National Forest.

Purpose and Need

There is a need to upgrade facilities throughout the camp as much of the existing infrastructure is deteriorating and needs to be replaced with larger facilities and/or upgraded to bring them into compliance with applicable federal, state, and county codes.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes the following actions to meet this purpose and need:

1. **Roofing**: All of the structures in Camp Makualla have deteriorated roofs that would be replaced over time. Roofs currently are primarily wood shingles. This CE will analyze all the roofs but only the priority ones will be completed this year. *Priority roof replacement*¹: Proposes to remove existing wood shingles on staff shower house/laundry facility, five A-frame structures, health lodge, and the existing metal roofing off the dining hall/main lodge, and replace all with a dark green or dark brown standing seam, non-reflective metal roofing materials. From what can currently be seen, only the top layer of material will need to be removed in order to replace with the new material, but would also like to replace any subsurface material, if existing, with new material if needed. Will use standard construction tools, scaffolding or bucket lift for installation and dumpster for collecting and removing old shakes. Minimal ground disturbance, no vegetation removal.
2. **Tent platform replacement**: Proposes to replace all old existing tent platforms with new ones that measure 7' x 9' sitting on existing prefabricated concrete blocks so platform is located off the ground for preservation. Don't anticipate moving blocks, but if required, would scrape surface to level

¹ . Priority roof placement are those structures listed. The remaining structures roofs will be replaced as funding allowed. This CE includes analysis for all roofs to be replaced. Camp ranger cabin, craft room, trading post, quartermaster structure, pump house, well house, gas house, campers bath house, camper shower facility, archery structure, archery range facility, and information kiosks.

blocks. Decking of platforms are constructed out of plywood and painted dark brown with 2" x 6" treated lumber for the frame of each platform. In addition, they propose to attach a galvanized pipe tent frame onto each platform that remains in place after each use. Minimal ground disturbance.

3. **Removal of Climbing Tower:** Climbing tower is no longer used in its current condition. BSA would propose to use a boom lift, power saws, and standard carpentry tools to remove the wooden structure. It does have a concrete base pad but appears to be above surface. Access is via established road. Will be ground disturbance for the removal of the concrete pad and/or any footings that are in the ground. No vegetation to be removed. Will use a mini excavator, or small backhoe to break up pad and load into trucks for disposal at local landfill.

The projects are located in Klamath County, Oregon, with a legal description is Township 24S, Range 6E, Sections 26, 27 Willamette Meridian (Figure 1).

Reason for Categorical Exclusion and Findings

Decisions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment when they are within one of the categories listed in 36 CFR 220.6(e), and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment.

Category of Exclusion

The appropriate category of exclusion is found in the Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3). This category is appropriate because the project involves "...approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land."

Relationship to Extraordinary Circumstances

In determining the appropriateness of using the categorical exclusion, a determination of the potential impact to the resource conditions identified in FSH 1909.15 Section 30.3(2) must be made. The following is the list of the potential effects to the resource conditions from the project activities.

1. ***Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.***
 - Wildlife: It is anticipated that this project would have "No Effect" to any threatened or endangered species and "No Impact" to any R6 Sensitive wildlife species. A Biological Evaluation (BE) would be completed before issuance of a final Decision Memo to document any potential effects, and any design criteria or mitigation measures will be added to that decision.
 - Plants: It is anticipated that this project would have "No Effect" to any threatened, endangered, and "No Impact" R6 Sensitive plant species. A Biological Evaluation (BE) would be completed before issuance of a final Decision Memo to document any potential effects, and any design criteria or mitigation measures will be added to that decision.
 - Fisheries: It is anticipated that this project would have no disturbance or "No Effect" to fisheries as a result of this decision.
2. ***Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds***

Executive Order 11988 provides direction to avoid adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. Executive Order 11990 provides direction to avoid adverse impacts

associated with destruction or modification of wetlands. The project is consistent with both executive orders.

- This project would have no effect to either floodplains or wetlands.
- There would be no adverse effects to a municipal watershed because the project is not located within or adjacent to a municipal watershed.

3. *Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas*

The proposed project is not within a Wild and Scenic River corridor. The closest is the Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor, which is approximately two and a half miles to the north, across the Lake, and would not be impacted by the proposed actions. The project area is not located within any Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or National Recreation Areas. The closest Wilderness Area is the Diamond Peak Wilderness, which is approximately two and a half miles north and separated from the project area by the Lake.

The Camp Makualla is approximately one mile from the edge of the Oregon Cascades National Recreation Area (OCRA). There is no proposed activity in the OCRA.

4. *Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas*

The project is not located within any Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) or potential wilderness areas. The nearest Inventoried Roadless Area is the Maiden Peak IRA, which lies approximately seven miles to the north. Due to the distance there would be no impacts to this IRA from these projects. The project is not within a potential wilderness area, nor will it affect any of the criteria for inventorying potential wilderness (ie. – no roads will be built and no timber will be cut).

5. *Research Natural Areas*

There are no existing or proposed Research Natural Areas (RNA) in or adjacent to the project. The nearest Research Natural Area is the Gold Lake Bog RNA, which is approximately 12 miles to the northwest on the Willamette National Forest.

6. 7. *American Indian and Alaska Native religious or Cultural Sites, Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties of Areas*

Consultation for this project would be covered under the 2004 Programmatic Agreement for the State of Oregon and a final determination of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, including any required field surveys, would be completed before issuance of a final decision memo.

Based on the conclusions regarding the effects to the resources and conditions listed above, I will determine whether the project will have no extraordinary circumstances that may result in a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment.

Consistency with Deschutes Land and Resource Management Plan

This project will be consistent with direction found in the *Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision 1990* (Forest Plan), as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan, 1994). Biological Evaluations are being prepared for Sensitive, Threatened, and Endangered animal and plant species and will be located in the project file at the Crescent Ranger District. Also, the project will meet all of the applicable Project Design Criteria from the 2014 Programmatic Biological Assessment for central Oregon.

This project is inside the Northwest Forest Plan boundary and will apply the Survey and Manage species list in the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*.

Public Involvement

Public scoping and Tribal consultation are being conducted in conjunction with the release of this preliminary Decision Memo.

Implementation

When the Decision Memo is signed, project implementation can begin once final approval is received from the Crescent District Special Uses Administrator. The following project design features will be included to meet project objectives and/or to reduce or minimize unwanted effects:

Cultural

- For any ground disturbance work- if imported fill is utilized it must be from a culturally sterile source (meaning there is no possible contamination from fill originating from another buried archaeological site).
- If, prior to, or during construction work, items of archeological or historical value are reported or discovered, or an unknown deposit of such items is disturbed, the permit holder/contractor would immediately cease activities in the area affected. The Forest Service would be notified and ground disturbing activity would not resume until written authorization is provided.
- Should human remains be encountered, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq. [Nov. 16, 1990] and its regulations (43 CFR §10) would apply.

Botany

- Equipment Cleaning - Actions conducted or authorized by written permit (contracts) require cleaning of all heavy equipment (i.e., bulldozers, skidders, and other construction equipment) prior to entering Forest Service lands. Equipment will be inspected on-site by the Forest Service project manager or the District botanist prior to start of work.
- All gravel, fill, sand stockpiles, quarry sites and borrow materials used for this project will be inspected for invasive plants before such material is transported and used within Forest Service lands. Any infested sources must be treated before use of pit material. Only gravel, fill, sand, and rock that are judged to be weed-free by District or Forest weed specialists will be used for this project (Requirement R6 Standard #7).

Soils/Hydro

- When rain is expected, all exposed soils should be secured (i.e. put soil back in ditch, take soil off steeper slopes, install a sediment catch fence etc.). If a precipitation event is expected to produce overland flow, it is recommended that the project be discontinued until conditions dry out. At the completion of the project soils should be secured, and adequate vegetative cover and drainage structure provided (FAC-2).
- No used building material will be disposed along the shoreline.
- Properly dispose of all building material off-site.
- All refueling and storage of equipment will occur more than 25 feet from water.
- Equipment operators/operations will have a spill kit on site of sufficient size to clean up and prevent further contamination.
- Forest Service will be informed of any observed petroleum spills.

Transportation

- For any National Forest system road related activities please contact the Crescent Ranger District's Road Manager/Transportation Planner at (541) 433-3254 at least 10 working days prior to the proposed activities. Issuance of a road use permit may be required.
 - Road related activities may include but are not limited to; Commercial hauling (sale of a good or service regardless of profit on National Forest Service lands), road use outside of authorized access or any road maintenance activities including snow removal.

Best Available Science and Conclusion

My conclusion will include a review of the record of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Your comments about the proposed actions or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. They would be most helpful if received by May 25, 2020. Comments can be submitted to the address on the header of this letter, or by email to: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-crescent@usda.gov. Written or oral scoping comments should include your name, address, and telephone number (if available). Include the title of the project (2020 BSA Camp Makualla Improvement Projects).

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymously will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with the subsequent environmental documents.

This letter/notice also serves as an invitation to participate in the Forest's National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process for the project.

Administrative and Appeal Rights

The final decision is not subject to appeal or objection. On January 17, 2014, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-76). Section 431 of that Act directs that the 1992 and 2012 legislation establishing the 36 CFR 215 (post-decisional appeals) and 36 CFR 218 (pre-decisional objections) processes "shall not apply to any project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan ... that is categorically excluded ... under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]." As a result, the Forest Service no longer offers notice, comment, and appeal opportunities pursuant to 36 CFR 215 for categorically excluded projects such as the one covered under this Decision Memo.

Contact Information

For additional information concerning this project, contact Meria Page, Special Uses Administrator at Crescent Ranger District, 136471 Hwy 97 N/ P.O. Box 208, Crescent OR 97733, or by phone at (541) 433-3200.

Responsible Official

The Responsible Official will be the District Ranger, Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest.



Figure 1 – Boy Scouts of America Camp Makualla Locator Map

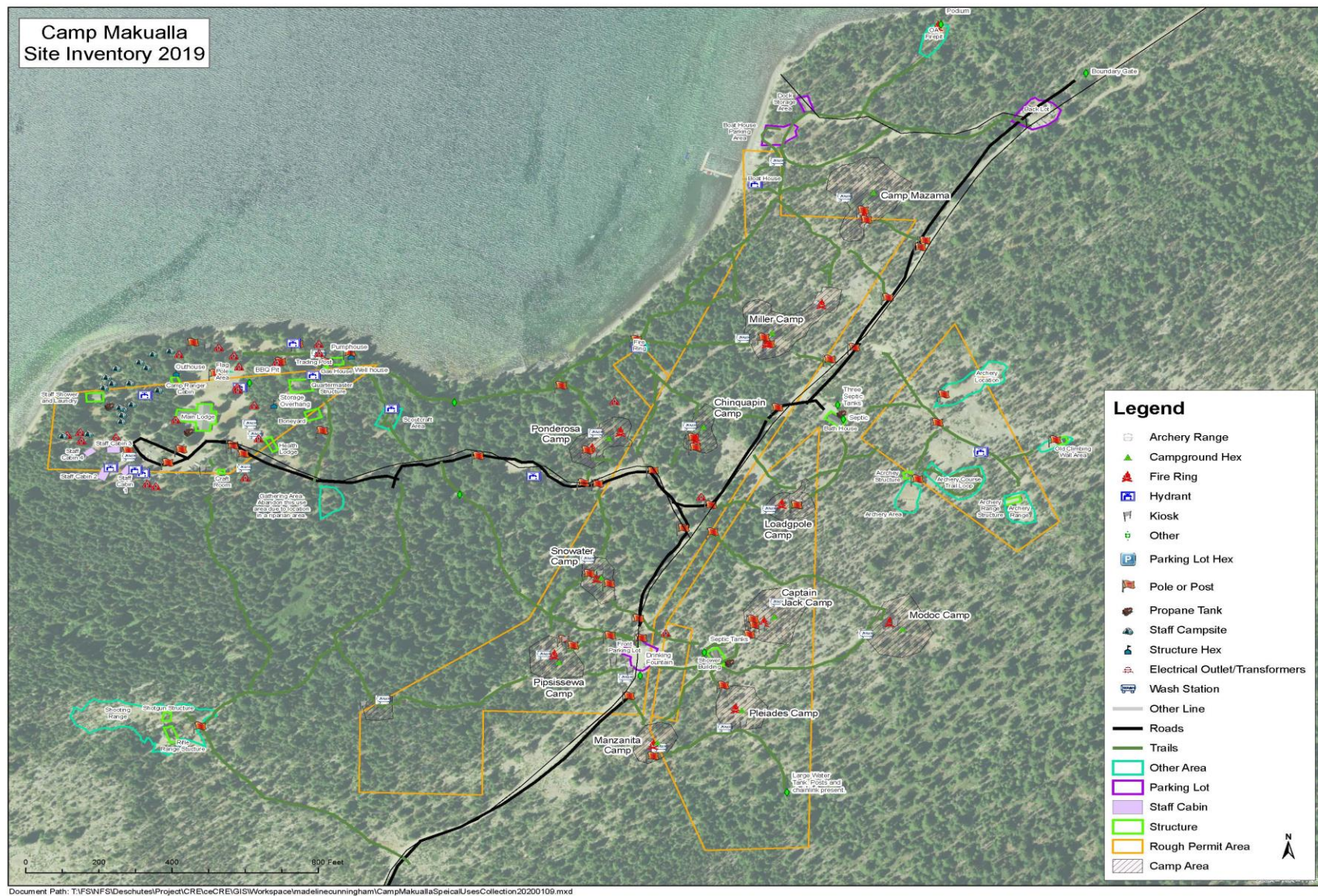


Figure 2. Boy Scouts Camp Makualla Detailed Areas of Use